(b) if so, the details thereof and the companies/countries proposed to be invited;

(c) The details of the blocks identified which are likely to be handed over to those companies; and

(d) The terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for exploration for oil and gas in India. 72 blocks—39 offshore and 33 onshore—in 17 basins are proposed to be offered, subject to environmental clearance. Companies possessing requisite financial and technical expertise can bid. The contracts would be production-sharing contracts.

Cancellation of Train between Samastipur and Khagariya

*319. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger trains running in the morning and evening between Samastipur and Khagariya junction (North-Eastern Railway) via Rosda have been cancelled for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this train; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The run of 415Up/41Dn Samastipur-Banmankhi train has been cancelled between Samastipur and Saharsa.

(b) This was one of the 83 trains that had to be cancelled due to dislocation caused by extensive civil disturbances and damage to railway property during anti-reservation agitation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

*320. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct resurvey for the construction of a new railway line from Khurda Road to Bolangir on the South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Vayudoot

*321. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot is incurring heavy losses every month;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to privatise the Vayudoot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?